Theo. Sem. Andover April 21, 1843.

Soc. of Inquiry, Theo. Sem. Princeton,

Dear Brethren,

We gratefully acknowledge the reception of yours of the 20th ult. and take pleasure in this opportunity of making a reply. We feel with you the importance of continuing our correspondence that we may thereby stir up each other to love and good works. Apart from the information that may be thus interchanged we regard the mutual expression of our religious feelings which break out spontaneously, which come fresh & glowing from the heart, as of great advantage. Philosophize and speculate about it as much as we please, it is, after all, the "fragrance of feeling", especially that of the pious heart, that cheers and sweetens the intercourse of life.

You inquire respecting the interest we now feel in the cause of Missions. Though there does not seem to be as much interest felt in this cause, as in years that are past, we are trust there are some among us who have something of the spirit of Christ and his Apostles, who have hearts as large as the world, who are ready to go any where, to be any thing, to do any thing, and to suffer any thing for Christ. This is the character

we all should possess. Wherever we may labor, whether at home or abroad, we ought to be thoroughly baptized with the Missionary spirit, the life and soul of the religion of the bible. Should all who enter the ministry be thus baptized, we should not fear for the cause of Missions. How soon would the apathy that now prevails in the church generally be broken up, and a true zeal for Missions be enkindled in its bosom, which no obstacles could overcome, but which would urge it on from conquering to conquer. That this may be the case, should be the burden of our prayer.

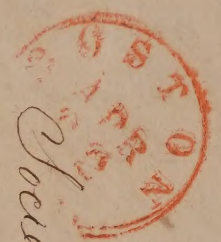
The current of missionary feeling here seems to be setting rather more strongly now toward the West than toward foreign lands. Prof. Edwards told us in a public address, that a minister could do twice as much for New England by throwing himself into the West, than he could by laboring here. Dr. Anderson visited us twice this Winter and made strong appeals to our sympathies for Foreign Missions. We hope these appeals were not in vain. For while we would remember our own country, which we feel to be in danger, notwithstanding the boasted virtue and intelligence of the people, we would not forget the 600 millions of heathen who are perishing for lack of vision, and turn a deaf ear to their cry, "Come over and help us." We feel that both have a strong claim on our sympathies, our prayers and our efforts. That dear to us as are the hills & valleys of New England

we ought to be willing to go forth and labor wherever God in his Providence shall call us. There is need indeed of the labor of the devoted minister in N. C. Her churches and institutions must be sustained But we fear that ministers are generally too prone to settle here. The fact is N. C. must be brought to feel more her need of the gospel and then she will prize it more herself, and be more ready to give it to them that have it not. As Prof. Edwards remarked in the address~~ed~~ refered to respecting the interest felt for the West, we may remark respecting the interest for missions in general, "the churches have not begun to feel and do as much as they ought." There must be a great change in this respect in the churches and ministry generally, before we can expect those glorious triumphs of the gospel which will usher in the Millennial day.

You inquire respecting the standard of piety among us, whether we may not by the recital of what God has done for us, excite you to seek more earnestly his blessing. We would that we might make such a recital. But we trust we feel in some measure conscious that our standard of piety is far too low. It is indeed sad to think that we who have such opportunities of becoming acquainted with God and his word, should be so unmindful of the obligations that rest upon us. Let us grow in grace as we grow in knowledge

that we may be wise to win souls to Christ.

Our next Term commences in about five weeks from to-day. We shall be happy to hear again from you soon. Meanwhile let us remember each other in our prayers. By prayer we can take



Society of Inquiry
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hold of the golden chain of the promises and make the very heavens bend.

In behalf of the Soc. of Inquiry
Yours in Christian affection
R. Tolman.